Late Running of Sirsa Express

†1804. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days when Sirsa Express, running between New Delhi and Sirsa arrived late in November, 1999, the time by which it was behind the scheduled arrival time, alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that this train covers six districts of Sirsa, Fatehabad, Hissar, Bhiwani, Jhajjar and Rohtak, but it has only one old first class coach for members of Parliament and other passengers;

(c) if so, by when AC-II tier of AC-Chair car coach is expected to be attached in place of first class coach; and

(d) the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) 4085 Sirsa Express arrived late by 25 minutes to 215 minutes at Sirsa on 6 days during November, 1999 due to accidents, law & order problems, cattle run over, loco failure and line capacity constraints on the single line section.

(b) Yes. Sir.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Alternative Loop- Line to North-East

1805. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that preliminary survey for a Rail Line from new Moynaguri (North Bengal) to New Bongaigaon via Dhulri. Bilasipara, was being completed as an alternative loop line to the main line to North-East; and

(b) if so, whether the Ministry would decide to construct this new line in coming year?

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†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to unremunerative nature of the project and acute constraint of resources, it has not been found possible to consider taking up of this project for the present.

Working conditions in Rail Workshops

1806. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the working conditions in some rail workshops are very pathetic and hazardous to the health of the workers;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard so far;

(c) how many workers of the workshops are suffering from common diseases ; and

(d) whether Railways have prepared any action plan to remove such diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Approximately 2% of the workshop workers take treatment for common ailments in a month ,which is the same as for other Railway employees.

(d) Indian Railways have a system of monitoring industrial hygiene and occupational illness.

Construction of railway line between Nirmali and Bhaptiyahi

†1807. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's plan for reconstruction of railway line between Nirmali and Bhaptiyahi of north-eastern railway which has been washed away due to Kosi river;

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.